

Retirement Board Profiles form the basis of the *PERAC Annual Report*. These snapshots summarize information relating to administration, audits, investment, funding and disability. The Commission has also used this section to review one-time circumstances, such as Y2K, that impact all retirement boards. We believe that all of those interested in our public pension plans can access a wide range of relevant and comprehensive data through the *Annual Report*.

One return for the boards participating in the PRIT Fund is listed on an investment management basis, and a second return in parentheses, with the impact of State assistance, is also provided. In addition, in some instances, the target return listed has not changed from last year's *Report*.

One constant theme that has been evident in past annual reports, PERAC Regulations, and PERAC educational sessions, has been the need for boards to invest in accordance with the fiduciary duty owed to members and their beneficiaries. This includes conducting searches for investment vendors in an open, objective and competitive manner. PERAC Regulation 840 CMR 17.00 establishes codes of ethics and conduct for fiduciaries and for managers and consultants. In addition, Board Members are subject to Chapter 268A, the State Ethics Law. Both PERAC Regulations and Chapter 268A prohibit the acceptance of gratuities by Board Members and staff. PERAC has, in conjunction with the Ethics Commission, recently concluded a series of seminars for Board Members and staff concerning the provisions of Chapter 268A. PERAC reminds Board Members and staff of the need to comply with that law and PERAC Regulations.

In a limited number of systems, the investment performance listed will vary considerably from that which may have been previously provided to the board by its consultant. This is due to the fact that PERAC has incorporated fourth quarter results for alternative investment and real estate allocations that were not available when the consultant analysis was conducted.